

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A spark plug comprising:

a center electrode;

a ground electrode opposing the center electrode in such a manner as to define a spark

discharge gap between the center electrode and the ground electrode; and

an igniter fixed to at least one of the center electrode and the ground electrode in such a manner as to face the spark discharge gap, the igniter being composed of a metallic material whose principal component is one of a platinum and an iridium, the metallic material of the igniter comprising an oxygen content of not more than 120 ppm, wherein at least a portion of the igniter facing the spark discharge gap is free from a material of the is fixed to the at least one of the center electrode and the ground electrode via a weldment.

2. (Currently Amended) The spark plug as claimed in claim 1, in which the metallic material ~~which composes~~ composing the igniter ~~and whose principal component is the one of the platinum and the iridium and is an alloy containing~~ is an alloy, and the metallic material further includes a sub-component of a nickel.

3. (Original) The spark plug as claimed in claim 1, in which the metallic material composing the igniter is at least one of a platinum-nickel alloy, a platinum-iridium alloy, a platinum-iridium-nickel alloy, and an iridium-nickel alloy.